

PROBATION OFFICER INTERVENTION IN THE HANDLING OF SEXUAL CRIME CASES AMONG CHILD OFFENDERS

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ABSTRACT

Probation Officer are individuals who play a role in managing cases involving children in need of rehabilitation as well as children involved in sexual criminal misconduct. Children in question are those under the age of 18. The handling of cases involving children is subject to the Children's Act 2001. The objective focused in this research is to explore the form of intervention applied by Probation Officer when managing sexual crime cases among child perpetrators. This study is a qualitative research study that uses the face-to-face interview method. The form of interview conducted is semi-structured. This study was conducted involving 10 participants consisting of Probation Officer who have served for more than five years and are still working as Probation Officer in ten districts in one state in Malaysia. The research analysis used is thematic analysis, which involves verbatim and coding activities. The results of the study found that the form of intervention involved individual, family and community intervention. Based on this study, it is suggested that the establishment of the Child Development Department can have a great impact on children and the Social Welfare Department needs to streamline the intervention processes for children involved in legal offences. With that, it is hoped that the case management carried out by the Probation Officer can have a positive effect in improving the social functioning of children.

Keywords: Intervention, Probation Officers, Sexual Crimes, Children.